

# Adam's Fall

Cornish Dialect Song from the singing of Mo Keast March 2017

Aw cum an I'll tell ee a taale, — A taal uv the days of ould, — Bout  
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Ad-am Tre-gay an' is wife, — Who liv'd up to Bizza, I'm told.

Oal Aadum woz fond ov es drop,  
A bowzer woz nawthen ta ee;  
Wen ee awt ta be up ta tha baal,  
Ee wud rether be aven a spree.

One Saterdag nite az I've heard,  
Ee went ta tha kidleewink;  
An wot weth tha beer an the heat,  
Ee soon woz too droozled ta think.

Goin homalong shur ee got maazd,  
Ee dedn naw weer ee woz to;  
Ez ed like a wezz-a-bowt turnd,  
And e didn't knaw wot a shud do.

Twas rainen an blawen braav an aard,  
An ee creedeld along like-a-thing;  
Till at laast ee fell down in an adet,  
An hit his oald ed with a ding!

Now Jenny woz oam waeten fer un,  
An claenen hup oll tha cloam;  
But soon she got tired of that,  
An sit out ta bringin' him oam.

An az she went traapsen aloang,  
She thot thaat she eard un screech;  
"Where ar ee, oal maan?" sez she,  
"You seem in a pridee old smeech!"

"Aw ! Jenny: I'm dead," sez ee,  
"My mowth-saych ez oll gawn!"  
"Thou art a liar I'm sure sez she,  
"You silly old droozen old zawn!"

She got en oam safe at last,  
An got en safe in bed;  
An gaav'n a baasun a broath,  
An plastered his broken 'ed.

Nex mornen she app'd to geek,  
Owt onder tha window blind:  
An theer woz tha Parson outside,  
Oll dressed up braav an fine.

"Aw ! git en tha spens," sez she,  
"Aw ! git en an eed awae;  
For if the Parson should see ee like this,  
What aiver would 'n say?

The Parson began,  
Sum Scripture to recoall;  
E says "Good woman I spoase,  
You've heard of Adum's Fall?"

"Ony just since I have" said she,  
An then for Adam did call;  
"Come out from in under the spens,  
Fur tha Passun da naw et aoll!

**Note**

Dialect and Cornish language Terms:

Baal (Bal)	a mine (Cornish)
Bizza	Bissoe
Braave	big or strong
Cloam	i.e. cloam oven
Creedeld	Crawled
Geek	peep (Cornish)
Kidleewink	a pub or bar
Maazd (mazed)	confused

Humerous ballads and tales are part of the Cornish dialect tradition. Adams Fall was set to music by Ralph Dunstan in *Lyver Canow Kernow*, the Cornish Songbook. It was also published in *Sengen Fiddee* by the An Daras Cornish Folk Art Project in 2003. The version given here is slightly different from the published versions and is from the singing of Mo Keast, a folk singer and story teller from Bodmin. It was recorded in March 2017 and Mo explained that she had obtained it some 40 years earlier from a singer called Mrs Foxworthy.

Merv Davey March 2017

See

Pol Hodge & Mike O'Connor, *Sengen Fiddee*, (Withiel, An Daras Folk Arts project 2003)

Ralph Dunstan, *Lyver Canow Kernewek / Cornish Song Book* (London, Reid Bros, 1929), p29